AN EPISTLE TO HIS Royal Highneſs THE PRINCE of *WALES.*

AN

EPISTLE

TO HIS

Royal Highness

THE

PRINCE of WALES.

AN EPISTLE TO HIS Royal Highneſs THE PRINCE of *WALES*; Occaſion'd by the State *of the* Nation. Preſented on his BIRTH-DAY.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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1920

By Mr. STANHOPE.

Semper Honos, Nomenq; *tuum*, *Laudesq*; *manebunt*.
Virg.

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AN EPISTLE TO HIS Royal Highneſs, &c.

PARDON, Illuſtrious Prince, if in theſe Times,
When, on what Av'rice dictates, Folly rhimes;
When, Poets grown, who ne'er were Poets born,
Make Gods of Upſtarts, whom a Mob would ſcorn;

To Miſcreants ſacrifice the Hero's Praiſe,
Prophane our Art, and violate the Bays:
Pardon, if One diſintereſted Bard,
Who loaths all Flatt'ry, and diſdains Reward;
Who wiſhes nought, but his Well-choſen Theme
To crown his Labours, and ſecure his Fame;
The Tracts of Wit and Glory would purſue,
And, to attain them both, would Sing of YOU:
Would, by your Name, our Arts old Honour ſave,
And vindicate the *Muſes* from the Grave.
Prince, be their Theme---- then ſhall they owe to (Thee,
What they gave Princes,---- Immortality.

BUT, *Muſes*, firſt, ſince Poetry is loſt,
Since witling Sycophants your Title boaſt,
And they, who know the leaſt on't, write the moſt;

Since

Since by their Uſurpations they have made
The nobleſt Art, the moſt Mechanick Trade;
Since as *light* Quibbling paſs'd for *Sterling* Senſe
Folly, that Vice may ſtand in its Defence,
Called Vices Virtues in its Venal Rhimes,
And turn'd Illuſtrious Virtues into Crimes:
True Wit from *falſe* diſtinguiſh, and *true* Fame
Purge from the ſpurious Maſs of *gilded* Shame.
Scorn the degen'rate Wits, and boldly ſhow
What Poets were, and what are Poets now:
Bid Heroes, Bards, bid Virtue live once more;
Them to Themſelves, and This to Both reſtore.

WHEN *Stocks* ran high, and Wit's Productions (fell,
Wit grew a Stock, which *Wits* began to Sell.
Theſe taught the *Cits* their Birth-right was to Cheat,
That Fortune could ligitimate Deceit;

On glitt'ring Ruins it was brave to riſe,
No Fault they knew, but unſucceſsful Vice:
To prove each Paradox they underſtood,
For *Vile* and *Rich* with them was *Great* and *Good*.
Proud of this flatter'd, infamous Deſert,
Cits grew the Patrons of perverted Art;
Then Poets firſt turn'd Uſurers of Senſe,
And lent out Scraps of Brains for Heaps of Pence:
Exchange of *Paper* made their Verſe renown'd,
Half Twelve-ſcore Lines ſubſcrib'd a Thouſand (Pound.
Buoy'd up with Flatt'ry, what can't Flatt'ry do!
The Trickſters, all, that Av'rice prompts, purſue:
Grown weary of defrauding by Retale,
Towns, Provinces, and Kingdoms ſet to Sale.

HERE, thoſe, that on his Menials joy'd to wait,
With *South-Sea* Squibs, beſiege a Duke's Eſtate;

For

For *Cypher-Scrolls* his *Rent-Rolls* they command,
He gets their *Paper*, and they get his *Land*.
His Titles thus are ſold to foul Diſgrace,
And Angel-Ladies made a Beggar'd Race:
Too late he tells his Daughters of their Fate,
They wring their ſnowy Hands, and pray *too late*.
While in his ſpacious Palace proudly ſits
A clumſy, couzening Tribe of *South-Sea-Cits*,
Bleſſing the *Harpy*-Maſter of the Seat,
Whom nought but Fortune's Blindneſs could make (Great.
Next after him they Hail his ill-bred Wife,
A Lump of Savage Mould, the Seed of Strife;
Who by her very Nature ſeems to be
Form'd for the loweſt Acts of Drudgery:
To tend in daily Labours of the Loom,
Or fit to deck a Bed, or cleanſe a Room.

Her aukward ruſtick Body, rudely ſpread,
With Giant-Limbs prophanes th'Embroider'd Bed;
Baniſhing Beauties, that, when there they lay,
Waking, gave Luſtre to the Opening Day.

SEE here Two ruin'd Counteſſes in Tears;
While there a *South-Sea* Upſtart's Strumpet wears
Two *Pendants*, worth two *Mannors*, in her Ears.

THERE a *Militia*-Warrior ne'er renown'd
For aught but Sieges in th' *Artill'ry-Ground*,
More skill'd in the contentious Frauds of Trade,
Than Souldiers to Repel, or to Invade,
Undoes ſome Gallant Heroe, that abroad
Fought, and led Armies like a *Homer*'s God;
Who, prodigal of Life, did ſhed his Blood,
Guarding in *Martial* Fields his Country's Good:

'Till

'Till ſpent with Age, and wearied out with Toils,
He lives but on the Gains of Hoſtile Spoils.
Theſe Spoils a *Broker*'s ſingle Contract gains,
And mock's the valiant Toils of Ten Campaigns.

THERE's One, whoſe utmoſt Promiſe of his (Birth,
Was, in his Shop, that narrow Spot of Earth,
To wave a *Yard-Wand* in his ſervile Hand,
Hoards Wealth, that might a Scepter'd Power (command:
Yet from that narrow Spot of Earth can buy
A more than Petty Principality.
So Rich! ſuch Subjects would be dang'rous grown
To any other Monarch, but our own.

NOW count the *Treach'ries*, Number all the (*Snares*;
Each Knave to Rob the Innocent prepares.

See by what *Lies*, what *Perjuries*, what *Deceit*,
Each makes Tribes fall, to make him ſingly great:
How many Families, nay, Towns undone,
To make one *Monſter*'s Fortune over-grown!
For half a Hundred Knaves half *London* fails,
And *South-Sea* ſhuts more Houſes than *Marſeilles*.

AROUND this ſpacious City caſt your Eyes,
Where Wealth did late, like *Thames*'s River, riſe;
When from the Sea ſhe rolls her ſwelling Tide,
Surveys Ten Thouſand Turrets on each Side,
And on her Surface ſhews their Tow'ring Pride:
To her fair Waters draws the floating Town,
And paints *Auguſta* with her Mural Crown.
But now ----
As dry its Channel leaves the Ebbing *Thames*,
So our Wealth leaves Us with departing Streams:

With

With mighty Streams, but not too Great to be
Quite loſt, and ſwallow'd in th' *unbottom'd Sea.*
Gone is our glitt'ring Tide, by which we ſhin'd,
Left, *Poverty*, and *Dirt*, and Naked Shores be-
hind.

YET read ſome *Panegyricks*, read ſome *Odes*,
You'd think theſe *Nation-Robbers* had been Gods;
Peruſe ſome Verſe on their Triumphant Carrs,
Some mighty *Stock-Jobber* wou'd paſs for *Mars*:
There theſe high pompous Words *Magnificence*,
Bounty, *& cætera*---- would by their Senſe
Make you miſtake a *Broker* for a *Prince*.

O, Glorious Bards! and, O each ſhining Theme!
Where *Folly*'s Wit, and *Ignominy* Fame.

NOT ſuch the Times, when, Sir, Your Regal (Sire
Croſs'd o'er the Seas to quench *Europa*'s Fire;
When You, our Mighty GEORGE's Mighty Son,
Deſtin'd to guard the Glories of the Throne,
Did, like a Father, on the Subjects ſmile,
And ſhone the *Guardian-Angel* of our Iſle:
Each happy *Briton* had his Fill of Eaſe,
In Plenty roll'd, and reap'd the Fruits of Peace.
That *Theme*, indeed, *That* claims the Poets Songs,
Yields them the Fame, that to its ſelf belongs.
To him that can deſcribe in gentleſt Rhimes,
The pleaſing Raptures of thoſe gentleſt Times,
That, like thy *Sway*, can make *his* Numbers flow
To him let all the World this Prize allow,
Let Crowns of Olive *bind his ſacred Brow.*

IF ſome bold Genius ſingularly bleſt,
That holds a Warmth peculiar in his Breaſt,
Arms and the MAN *would* Sing, who, truly Great,
With his own Hand could ſhake the *Gallick* State;
Would ſing in Martial Notes the beſt Campaign,
That e'er, ſince *Virgil*'s, grac'd the *Epick* Strain;
O let him make fam'd *Audenard* his View,
And paint, the Glory of the Battle, YOU!
Sprigs of your Laurel ſhall be his Reward,
And what adorn'd the *Prince*, adorn the *Bard*.

BUT if, like *Mars*, my *Prince* in Arms does move,
Unarm'd he looks juſt like the God of Love;
And ſofter than Love's Goddeſs are HER Charms,
Who pays the *Warrior*'s Toils, and fills the *Victor*'s Arms.

For him, that Copies *Ovid*'s courtly Stile,
And, like *Tibullus*, makes the *Graces* ſmile;
Paints thoſe beſt Friends, the Husband and the Wife,
And draws their Princely Virtues to the Life;
For him ſhall reading Nymphs tranſported glow,
And Myrtle-Garlands for his Temples grow.

COULD yet one Univerſal Genius riſe,
With Verſe as various, as *your Acts*, ſurpriſe,
And, from your Birth beginning, Feaſt our Ear,
Tracing your growing Virtues, Year by Year;
Let him, each Point of Annual Time renew,
And give *October* a freſh Name from YOU.
So, *Auguſt*, when like *Britain*, flouriſh'd *Rome*,
When Courts to Shine, and Arts began to Bloom,
Enter'd the Annals of Recorded Fame,
And took from *Cæſar* its Imperial Name;
But in our Age increas'd its High Renown,
Its *Calends* dating from your Father's Crown.

If

If ſuch a Bard there be, whoſe fruitful Brains,
With *Horace*'s can mingle *Ovid*'s Strains;
Like *Gallus*, Sing of Friendſhip and of Love,
Whoſe Elegies the melting Virgins move;
Can *Maro*'s Judgment join to *Homer*'s Fire,
And Sing whatever *Phœbus* can inſpire?
Can Copy lofty *Pindar*'s ſoaring Odes,
And Paint his Heroes ſhining like the Gods;
Let his Odes bleſs thoſe influencing Pow'rs,
That made You firſt to *Be*, and then be *Ours*:
Let his ſoft Elegies Thy FAIR attend,
Praiſe the dear Husband, and the trueſt Friend:
When call'd from Love by Honour's loud Alarms,
Then, when *Thy Deed* his *Epick* Spirit warms,
Let him deſcribe Thee terrible in Arms.
Who thus ſhall Sing each various Excellence,
The Son, the Spouſe, the Soldier and the Prince,

He, well rewarded for his num'rous Lays,
Shall ſingly wear the Honours of the *Bays*.

FOR Me, who ſeldom venture on the Stage,
And when provok'd to laſh a fooliſh Age,
Straight diſappear, and quickly ſpend my Rage;
My Commerce with the *Muſes* is ſo young,
Spight of Ambition, I'll reſtrain my Tongue:
Nor ſhall my Heart, tho' ſtrong it beats with Zeal,
Make me the Weakneſs of the Head reveal.
Content if my low Numbers but excite
Thoſe, who can neareſt reach the Task, to write.

WELL-PLEAS'D with theſe ſmall Hints, I've this (Pretence,
I'm the firſt Author of each Author's Senſe;
At leaſt I'll fancy I may lay ſome Claim
To each contending Poet's Share of Fame.

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